



PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 2010

Report No. 2010-04-01

Follow-Up Analysis of 25 Underutilized State Aircraft Confirmed Inefficiency and Potential Cost Savings

Summary

This report follows up the Program Evaluation Division's April 2010 report entitled *Selling 25 Underutilized Aircraft May Yield Up to \$8.1 Million and Save \$1.5 Million Annually* and provides more details on the aircraft identified for elimination. The North Carolina General Assembly directed the Program Evaluation Division to conduct an initial evaluation of the number, use, and effectiveness of the state aircraft fleet and to consider ways to achieve efficiency savings. The legislation also directed the Division to determine if it is desirable or feasible to sell or transfer any aircraft to another state agency.

The follow up focused on utilization data on the 25 aircraft recommended for elimination by the Division's first report. For each aviation program that operates aircraft identified for elimination, this report provides a brief overview of the aviation program; results of the analyses that identified each aircraft; alternatives to owning specific aircraft, if needed; and the fiscal impacts associated with aircraft elimination. In addition, the report presents data that address specific concerns raised by the agencies in response to the report recommendations for eliminating aircraft.

- One twin engine passenger transport airplane operated by the Department of Transportation, which averaged only 42 flight hours, could be sold for \$4.6 million and save \$307,343 annually.
- The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) twin engine airplane, which averaged only 148 hours per year, could be sold for \$650,000 and save \$12,000 annually. During the 3-year data period, SBI did not fly the plane 84% of the time. SBI used 43% of actual flight hours for conferences, meetings, and trainings; contrary to SBI's assertions, only 19% of actual flight hours were used for prisoner transport.
- The Division of Marine Fisheries could sell three underused helicopters for a total of \$190,000 to save \$11,570 annually. The Division concurred.
- The Division of Forest Resources could eliminate 20 aircraft, realize \$2.6 million in sales proceeds and save \$1.2 million annually. The only fire suppression aircraft proposed for elimination is a scooper/tanker that has not flown since 2008; sits outside a leased hangar that is too small to store the plane; needs a \$1 million mandatory inspection and potential repairs of up to \$1 million; and has no pilot qualified to fly it.